

AKIRA

34

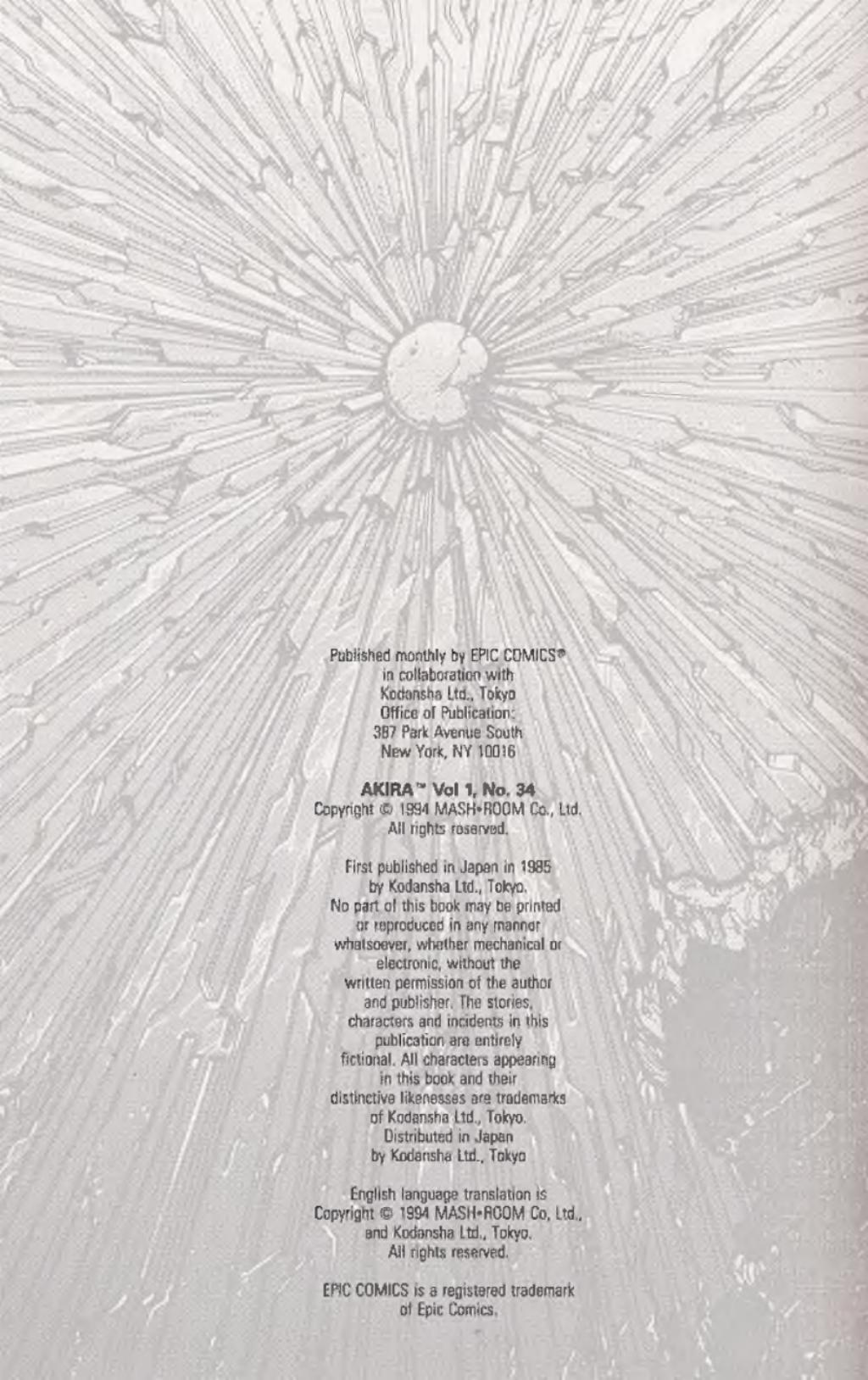
TM



EPIC COMICS • \$6.95 • \$9.75 CAN • VOL 1, NO 34



KATSUHIRO OTOMO



Published monthly by EPIC COMICS®
in collaboration with
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo
Office of Publication:
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

AKIRA™ Vol 1, No. 34
Copyright © 1994 MASH-ROOM Co., Ltd.
All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 1985
by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
No part of this book may be printed
or reproduced in any manner
whatsoever, whether mechanical or
electronic, without the
written permission of the author
and publisher. The stories,
characters and incidents in this
publication are entirely
fictional. All characters appearing
in this book and their
distinctive likenesses are trademarks
of Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Distributed in Japan
by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo

English language translation is
Copyright © 1994 MASH-ROOM Co., Ltd.
and Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
All rights reserved.

EPIC COMICS is a registered trademark
of Epic Comics.

AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 34

PHANTOM VOICES

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, onetime leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—led by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyo**.

The **Colonel** had a number of psychic children under his control. Each was identified by a number tattooed on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—was once among their ranks but now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**,

once Kaneda's friend but now his greatest enemy. **Tetsuo** lost his left arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite SOL, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic replacement.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28—**Akira**—a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost 40 years ago, after his mental blast started the Third World War. **Akira** was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of **Neo-Tokyo**. Japan now exists in a state of emergency. The forces of the army and the resistance are scattered, and the military's formidable "caretaker robots" patrol the streets.

In the western part of **Neo-Tokyo**, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. To the East, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is



Kaneda



The Colonel



Lady Miyako



Joker



aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal, psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies of commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on Tetsuo's forces. A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon—which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**. One of the scientists—**Stanley Simmons**—goes ashore without military authorization, hoping desperately to implement a secret plan.

Meanwhile **Lady Miyako**, **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** convince **Kay** to join them in battle against **Tetsuo**, because **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project

their powers and strike as one.

Kaneda, who's teamed up with **Kai** and **Joker**—a friend and a rival from his gang days—vows to kill **Tetsuo** himself rather than let **Kay** face such danger. He, **Kai** and **Joker** launch an assault against Tetsuo, using most of their men, as well as such state-of-the-art weapons as they've salvaged, including laser rifles, flying platforms, and one caretaker robot. At the Olympic Stadium, they find destruction and chaos. Their enemy is already under attack by **Kay**, the outside forces, and even disloyal subjects of his own empire.

In battle, **Tetsuo** loses control, and his artificial arm assumes a grossly mutated form. He runs amok, killing anyone who comes too close. His power has grown beyond what his body can contain and is now trying to absorb its



Kaori



Kiyoko



Kay



Lt. Yamada



surroundings. His body begins to alternate between a normal human form and an immense, uncontrollable, bloated grotesquerie.

Kaori, the girl **Tetsuo** loves, is murdered by traitors. While **Tetsuo** is mourning her, he and his followers are attacked by the armed infiltrators. **Tetsuo**'s supporters die horribly, while **Akira** looks placidly on. **Tetsuo**, shot by the biochem weapons, is enraged, and his enemies, too, die a hideous death.

Ironically, the germs in the weapons affect **Tetsuo** like a drug, enabling him to reassert mastery over his powers. A duel in the stadium ensues, with **Kay** and **Kaneda** using lasers and telekinesis against him. The fight goes on and on, with the advantage shifting time and again. **Kaneda** sends **Kai** to safety with **Akira**, and **Kai** hands the boy over to

another gang member, hoping to find **Joker** and return to the fray.

Then, the international fleet in the harbor sends fighter planes to rain death upon **Neo-Tokyo** causing chaos among all the combatants. **Akira** slips away from his guardians and rejoins **Kaneda** in the stadium, saying that he's been called by a power from above. The power is an orbiting laser cannon which the admiral of the fleet has ordered fired at the stadium. The laser pauses to recharge just before firing at **Tetsuo**, and **Tetsuo** transports himself to space, seizing control of the weapon.

Before the ships can be evacuated, **Tetsuo** fires the cannon at the fleet. For a finale, he brings the entire satellite crashing down upon the bridge of the flagship where the admiral commands.



Chiyoko



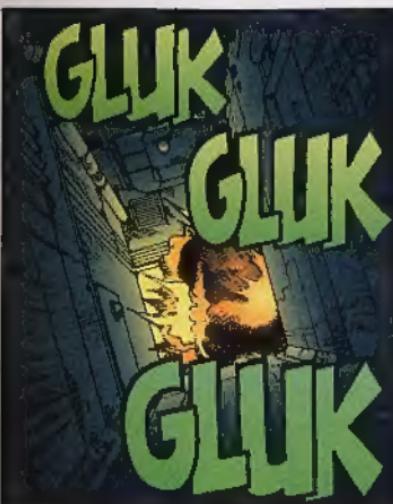
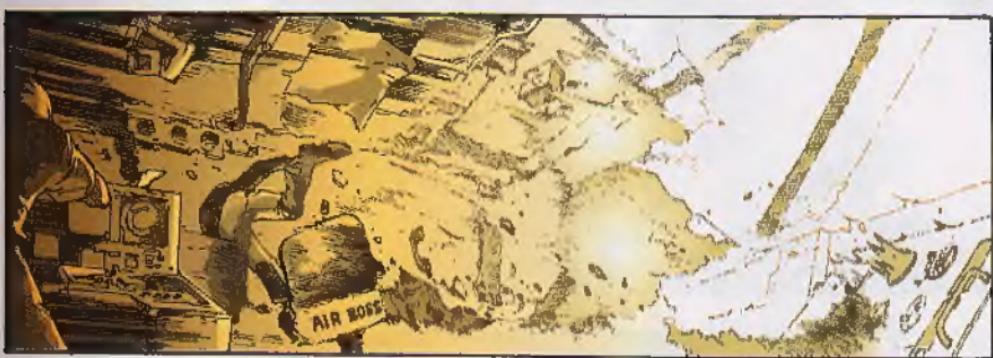
Tetsuo

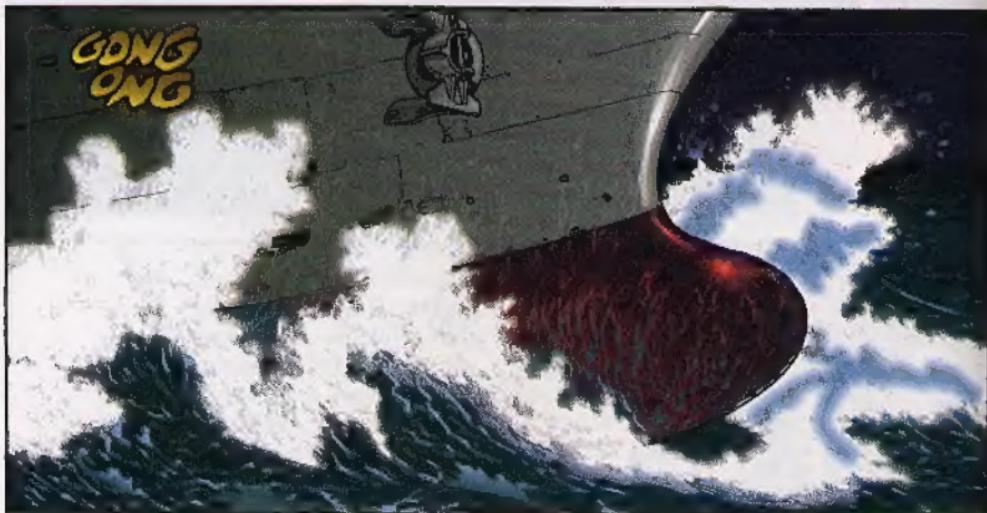


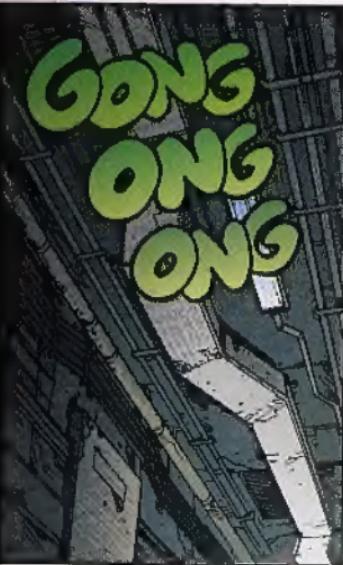
Masaru

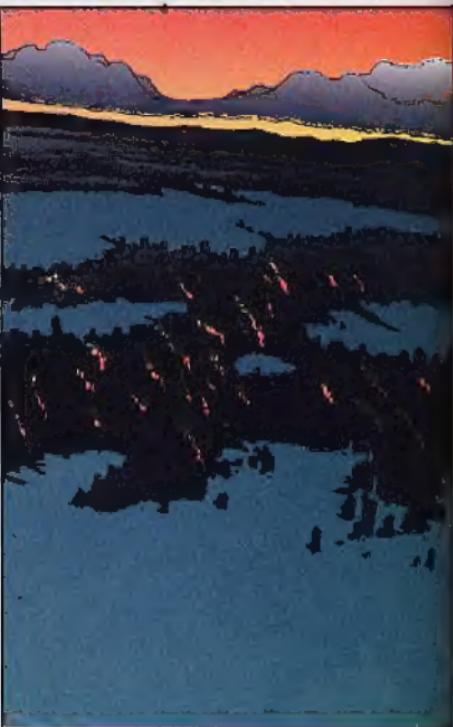


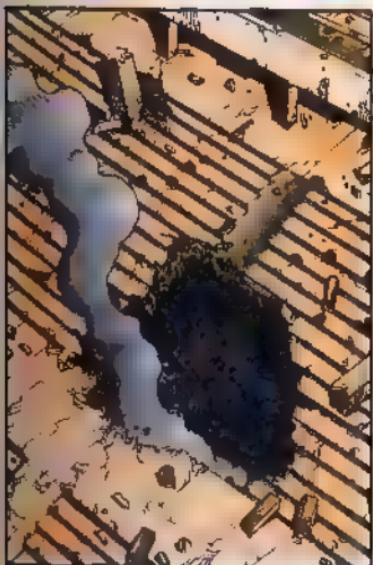
Akira













DID YOU--?!



THEY HAVE
DECODED THE
SEAL ON SOL.



I GAVE YOU
WHAT AID I
COULD

AS YOU CAN
SEE, MY OWN
LEGS ARE...

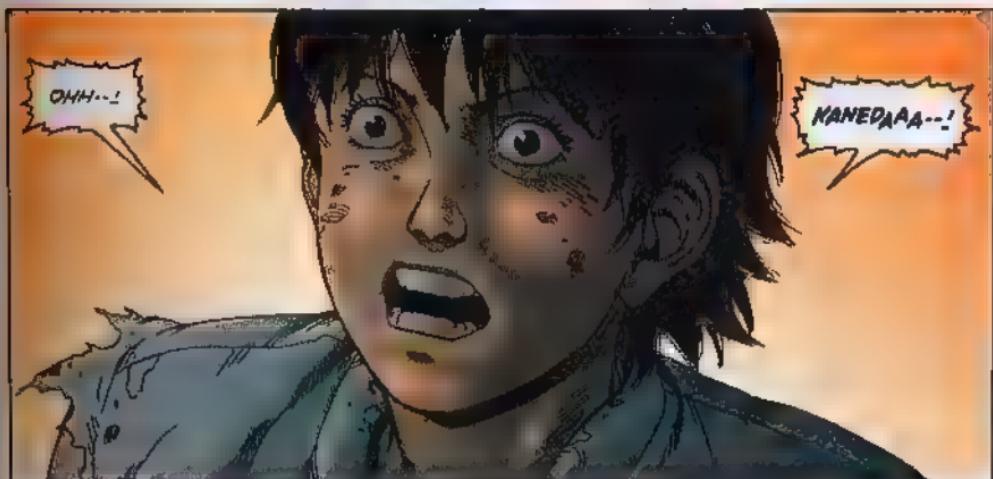


I BELIEVED WE TWO--
OLD ENEMIES--WOULD
PERISH TOGETHER...AND
THEN, THE ATTACK
STOPPED.

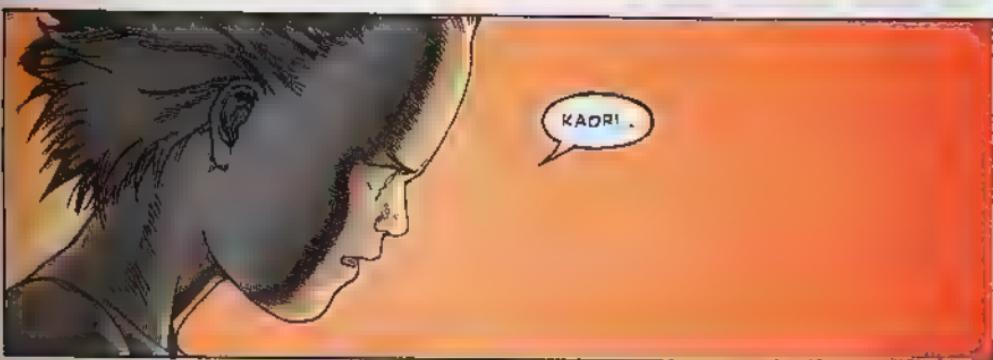


OHH--!

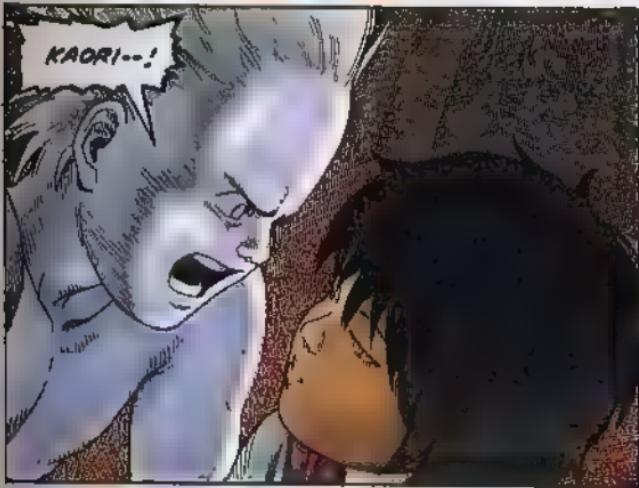
HANEDAAA--!











OH, KAORI...

DAMMIT!

I CAN'T FIX
THE ENGINE
WHEN IT'S TOO
DARK TO
SEE!

KLANK

TRouble
IS, YOU PUT TOO
MUCH FAITH IN
MACHINES.

I'M TIRED OF
WAITING!

YOU
MEAN...

...YOU'RE
GOING
IN UN-
ARMED
2!

THE MORE THAT
BASTARD'S POWER
GROWS...

...THE LESS
CONTROL HE'S
GOT OVER THE
SMALL
STUFF.

BEST TIME
TO STRIKE...

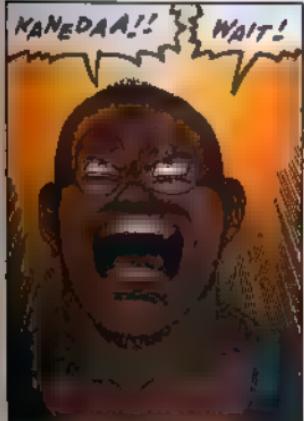
...IS NOW THAT
HE CAN'T DO ANY-
THING SUBTLE.



TAKE AKIRA
BACK TO
MIYAKO.



I TOLD YOU, JOKER THIS
IS PERSONAL BETWEEN
TETSUO AND ME



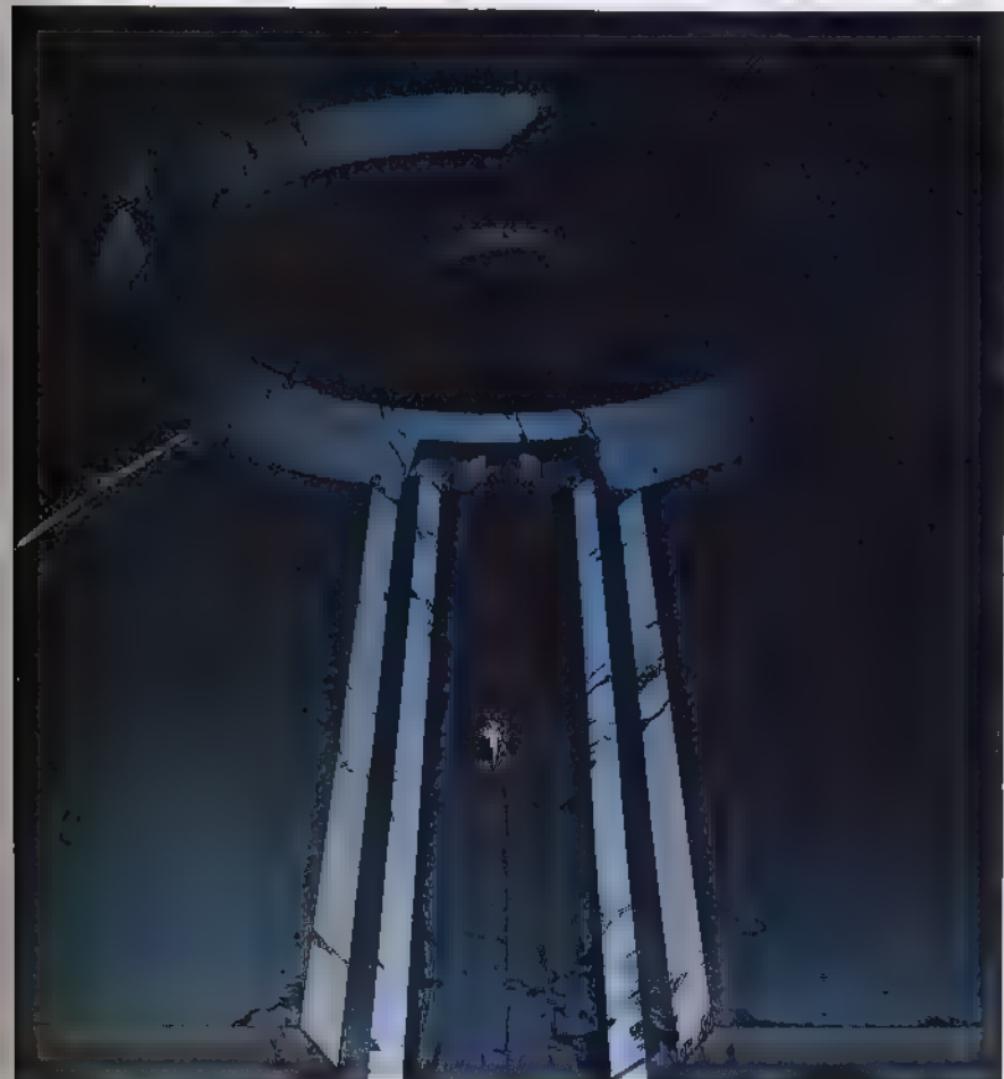


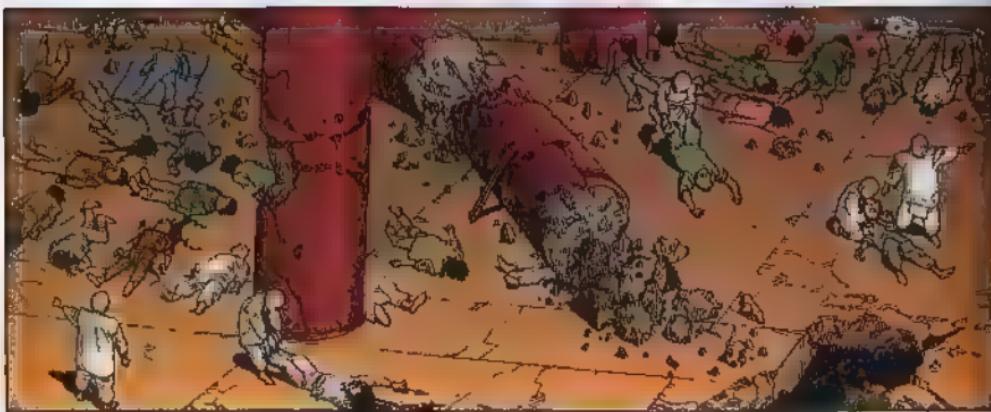
WHERE D'YOL THINK YOU'RE GOING?









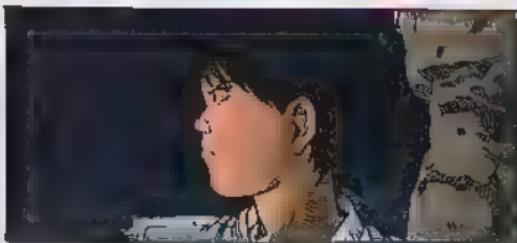
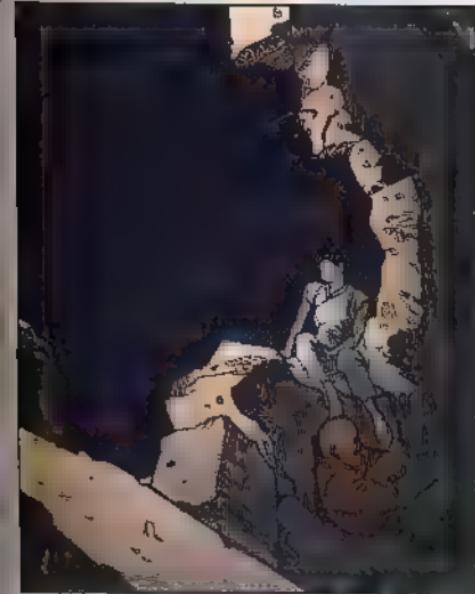


COME QUICKLY!

NEVER MIND
THE DEAD! IT'S THE
SURVIVORS WHO'LL
BENEFIT FROM OUR
AID!







I'M HERE...
THERE'S NOTHING
TO WORRY
ABOUT...

?

I UNDERSTAND...

WHERE
IS TETSUO
NOW?

I DON'T KNOW HOW
LONG OUR POWER
WILL LAST, SO WE
MUST CONCENTRATE
OUR POWERS FOR
ONE LAST TRY

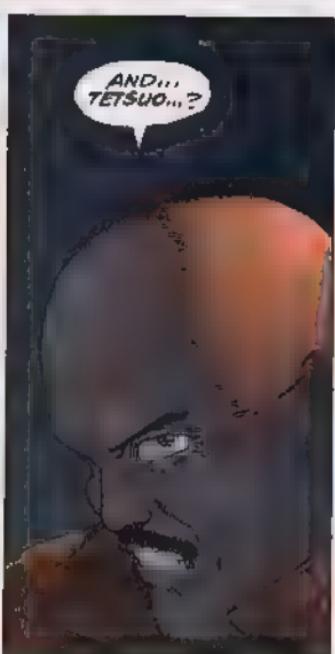
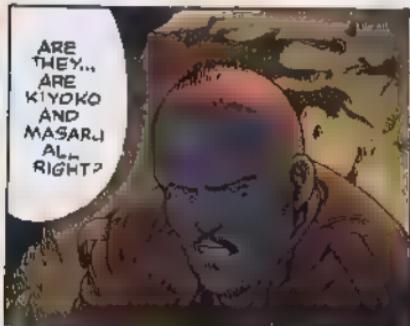
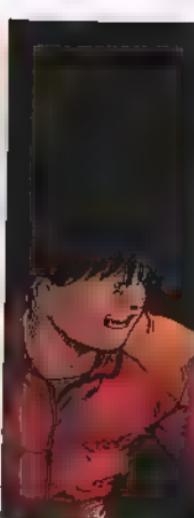
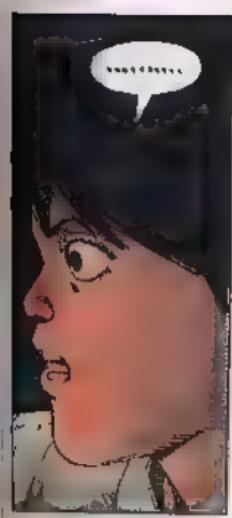
WHAT?!

WHERE IS
AHIRA?

ON HIS
WAY TO JOIN
YOU NOW.

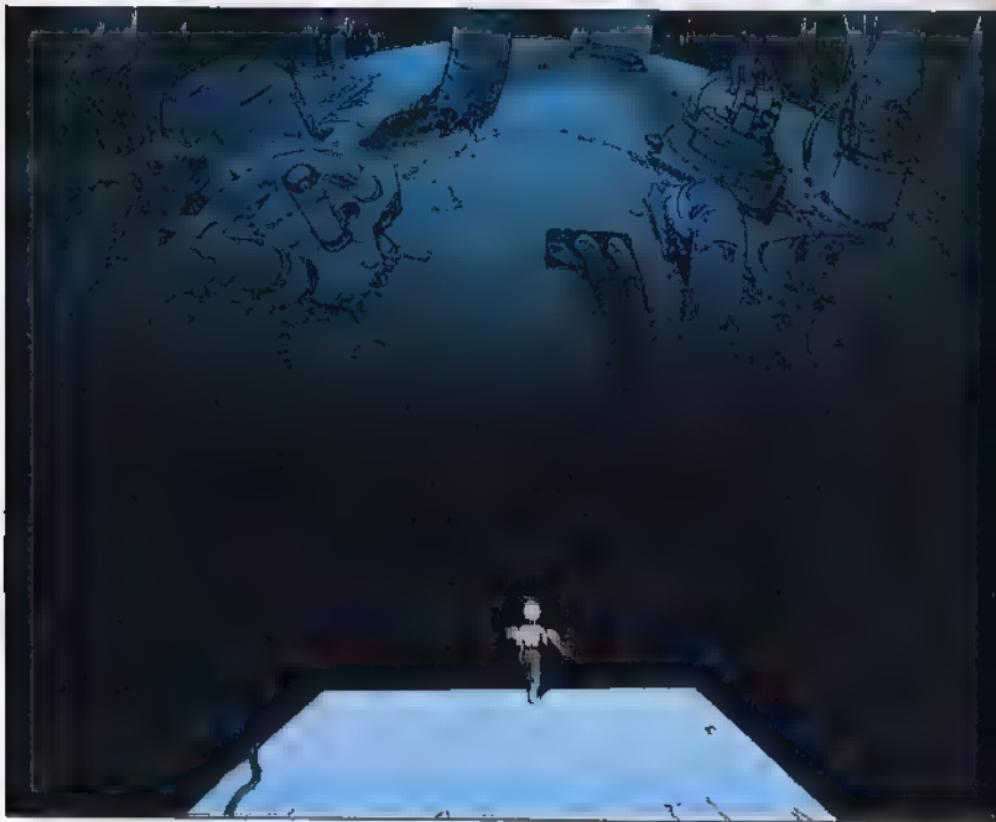
HE IS
FOLLOWED
BY...

KAEDA!!



TETSUO...

...16...

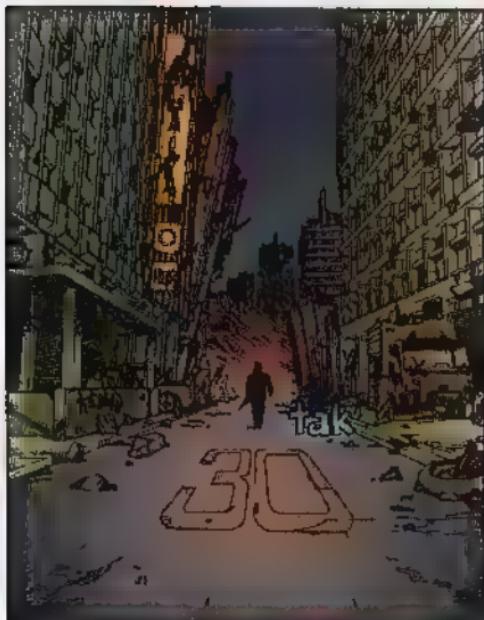




HEY, RADIO'S
MORE SCIENTIFIC
THAN A TOY
TELEPHONE

THERE'RE SOME
DISCOVERIES
SCIENCE ISN'T
UP ON

HUH?



CHIYOKO!

...KANEDA...!?

ARE
YOU
FEELING
BETTER
?

COMPLETE-
LY.

I
CAME
TO
LOOK
AFTER
YOU.

ME...?

THAT'S STUPID! KAY'S
THE ONE WHO NEEDS
HELP! WE'RE ON
OUR WAY TO SAVE
HER!

YOU TAKE TOO
MANY CHANCES.
KAY WAS
WORRIED.

YOU NEVER
CHANGE...EXCEPT
THAT NOW AKIRA IS
WITH YOU.

WAIT
UP!

I'M
TALKIN'
TO YOU!

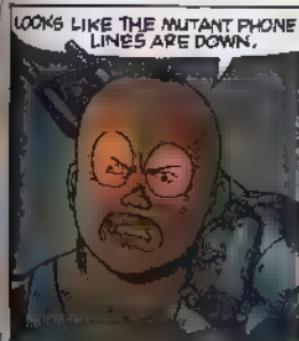


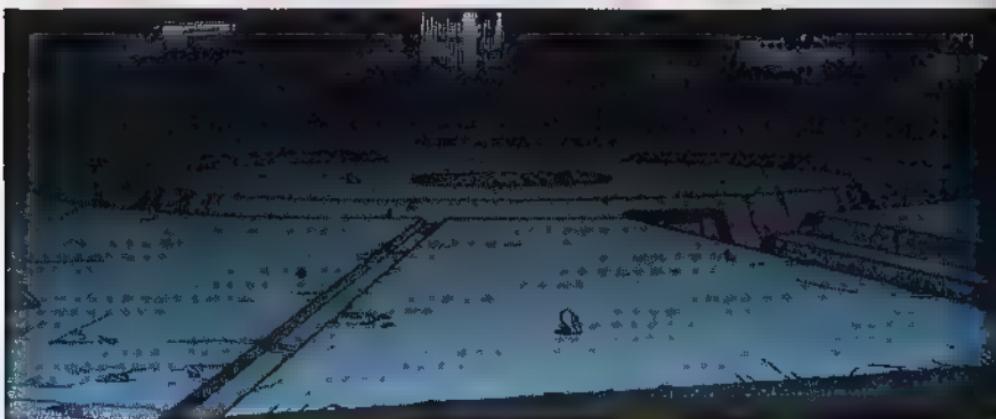
STUPID
KID...

WHERE IS HE
GOING?

I DON'T KNOW
WHERE HE THINKS
HE'S GOING, BUT HE'S
HEADED FOR OUR
DESTINATION









MOVE AWAY FROM
THE SHIP. WE CAN'T
ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN
ONE BOATLOAD OF
SURVIVORS AT A
TIME.

PROCEED UP THE
LADDER IN AN
ORDERLY FASHION.

BRING THE
WOUNDED THIS
WAY.



OVER HERE!

YOU CAN'T
COLLAPSE UP
HERE! MOVE
BELOW DECK!

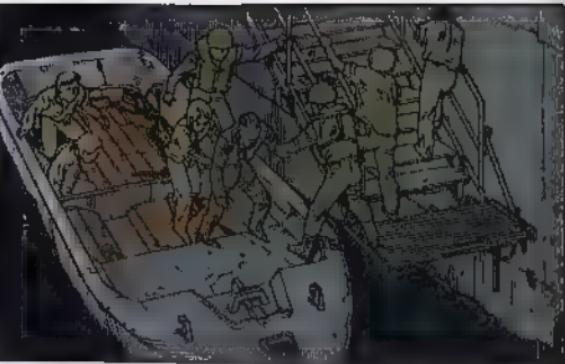
WE NEED
MORE
BLANKETS!

THIS ONE'S
ALREADY
DEAD!



YOU CAN'T STOP
HERE. WE HAVE A
LOT MORE PEOPLE TO
BRING ABOARD.

MORE
BLANKETS!



ALL OF
THE WOUNDED
MUST IDENTIFY
THEMSELVES!







THEY WILL
SERVE AS YOUR
BODYGUARDS.



DON'T SAY A
WORD.

DON'T
PROTEST



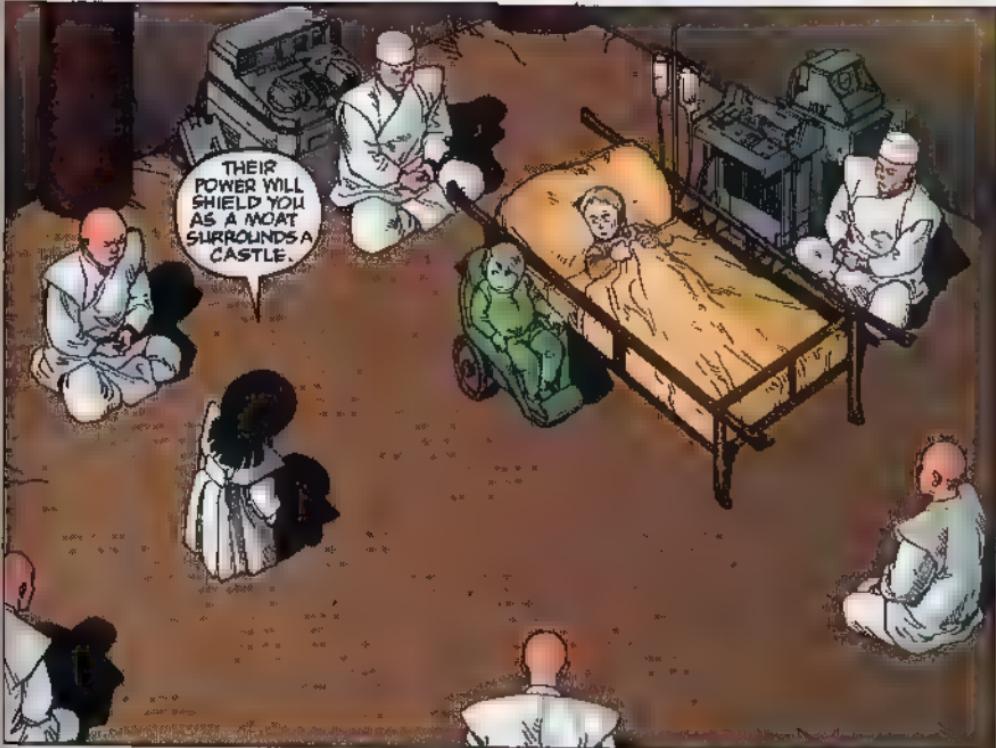
DON'T BEILITTLE THEIR
WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE
THEMSELVES FOR
YOU.

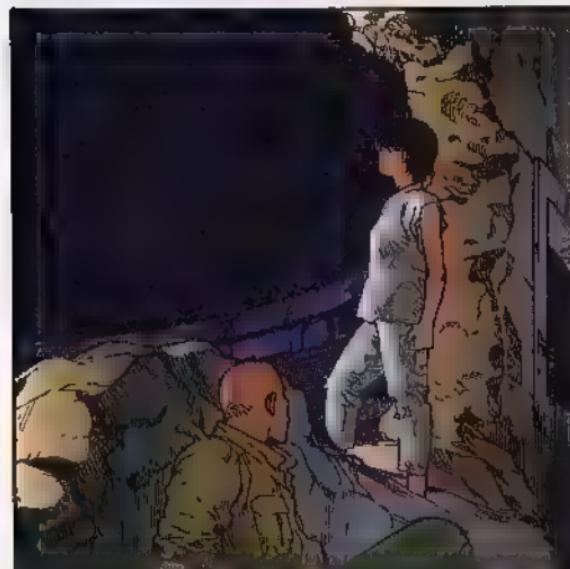
THEY ARE PREPARED TO DIE.
THEY THINK OF THEMSELVES
AS DEAD ALREADY.



INDEED.

THEY
OFFERED
UP PRAYERS FOR
THEIR OWN SOULS
AT A FUNERAL
SERVICE I
CONDUCTED.







WHAT'S GOING ON?

I ALWAYS CAME IN FROM THE SEWERS.

I NEVER GUESSED THIS WAS THE MAIN ENTRANCE

IS THIS THE BASE WHERE THEY HAD THE CRYONIC STORAGE CAPSULE HIDDEN?

EXACTLY!

SO WHY'D HE BRING US HERE?

BECAUSE HE WANTS WHAT'S BELOW US.

WHO'S THERE??

SHOW YOURSELF!





RIGHT,
EXACTLY
WHO WE'RE
AFTER



HE WAS CARRYING
SOMEONE. A
GIRL...



KAYN



KAY AND I
AREN'T EXACTLY
STRANGERS.
I'D HAVE
NOTICED.

NO, THIS
LOOKED LIKE
THE DAUGHTER
OF SOME
REFUGEE. SHE
MUST HAVE BEEN
TETGLO'S
GIRLFRIEND...

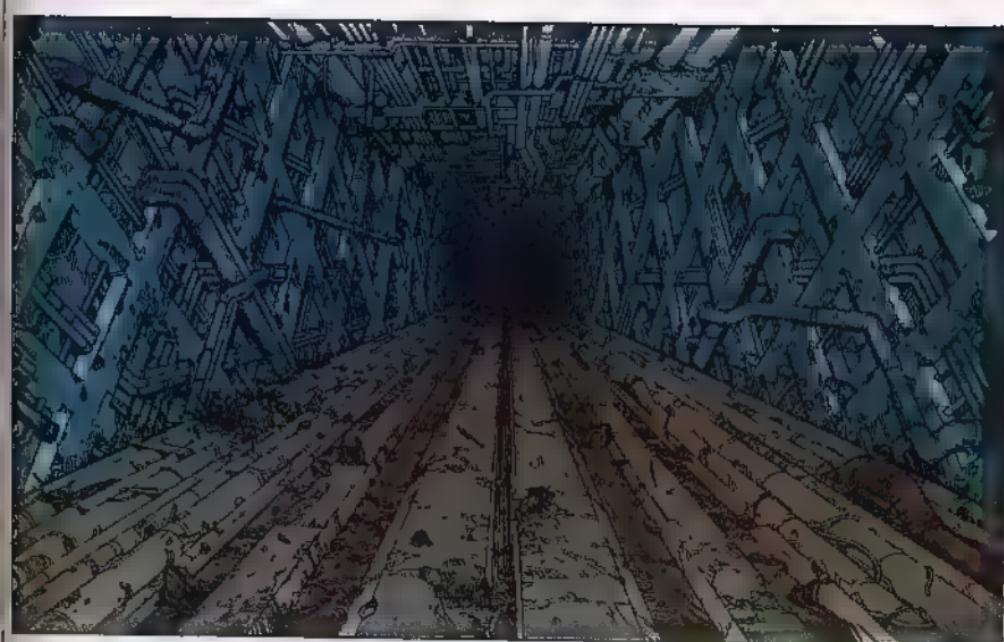


TAKING AKIRA DOWN
THERE MAY BE LIKE JUMPING
INTO A FIRE HOLDING
A LIVE BOMB.

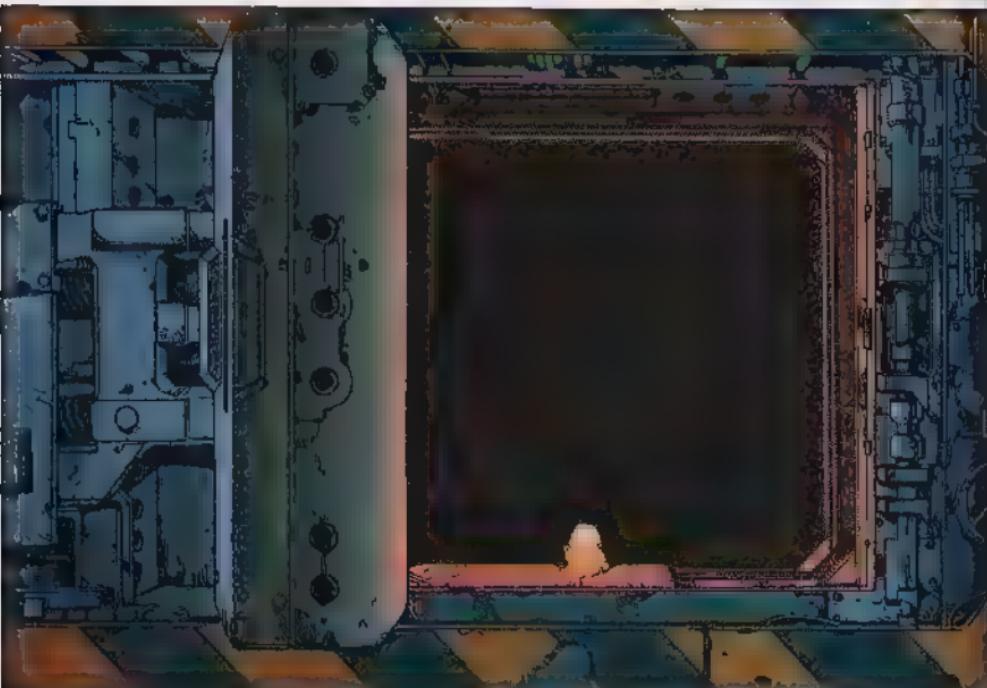
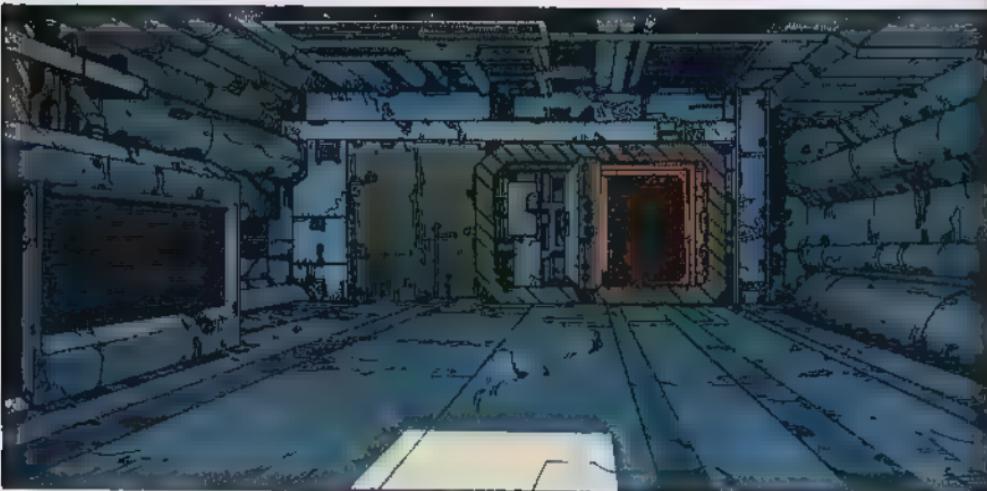


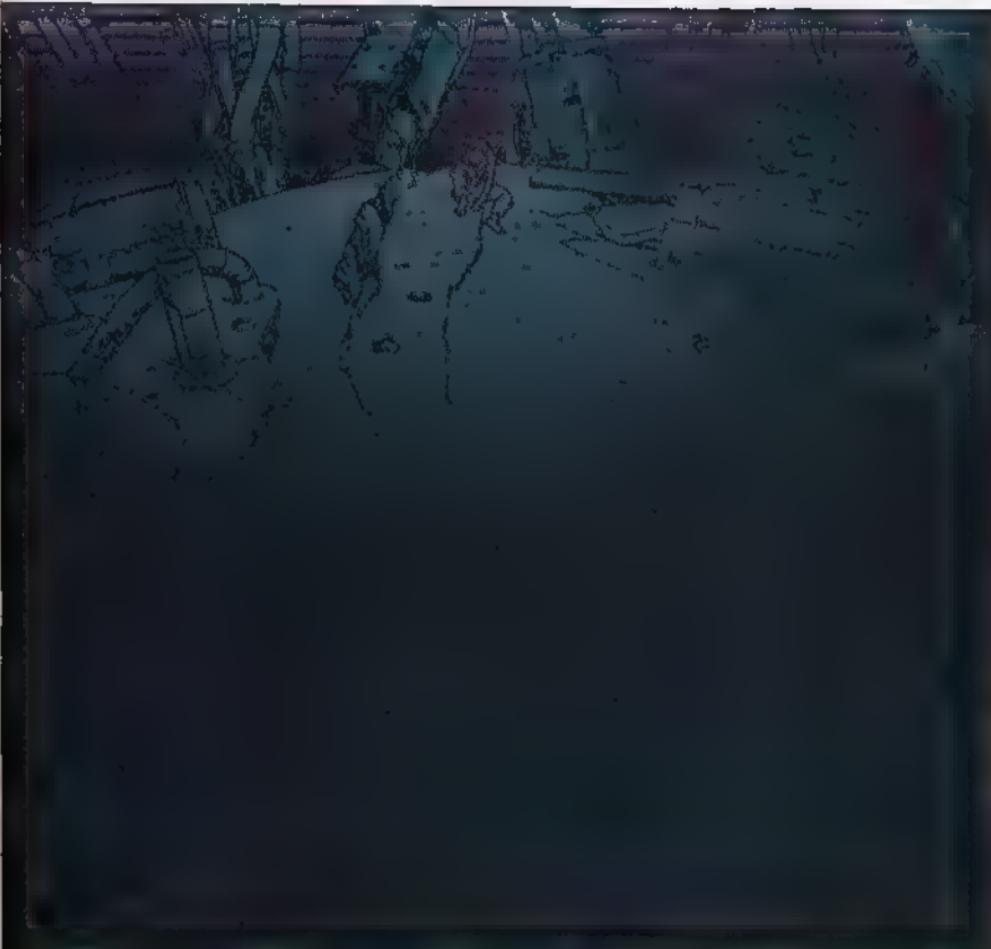
SOMETIMES THE
BEST WAY OF
FIGHTING FIRE IS
WITH A LITTLE HIGH
EXPLOSIVE

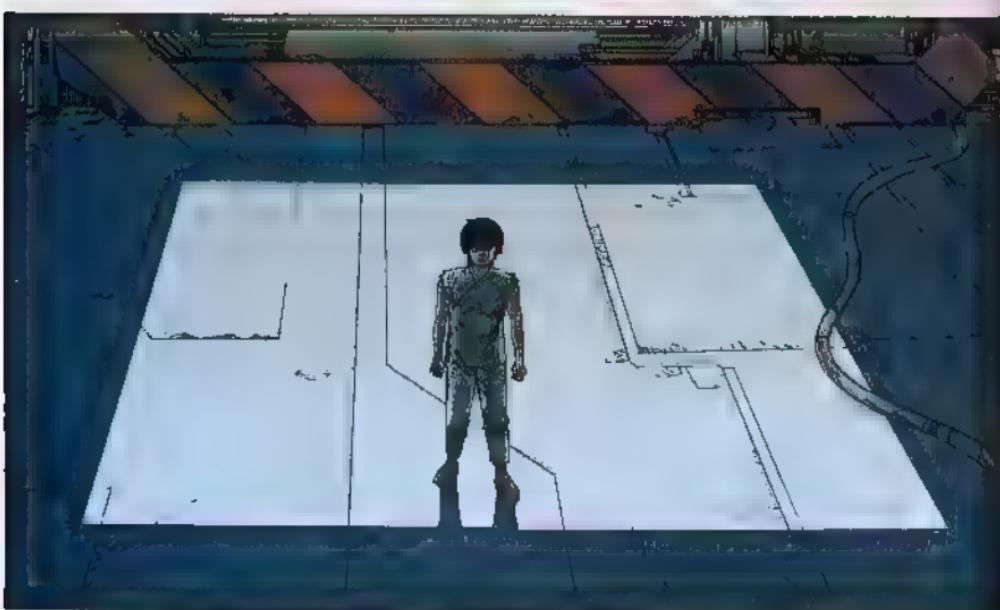




SHUK









IT'S BEGIN AGAIN, HASN'T IT?



HAHAHAHA

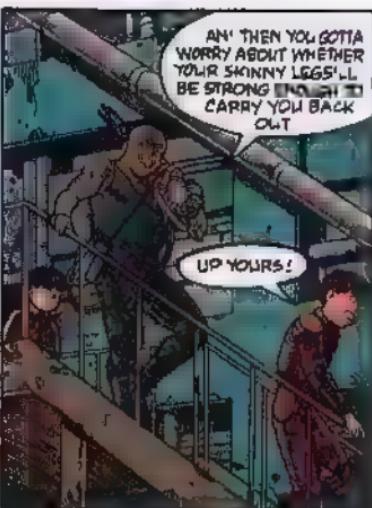


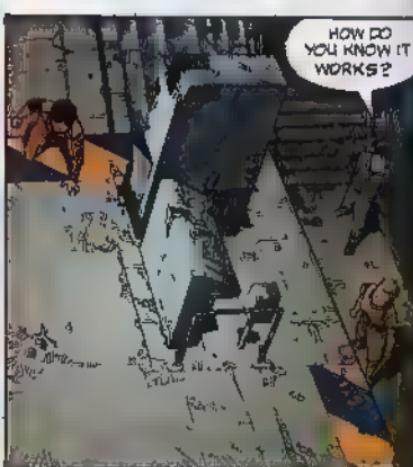
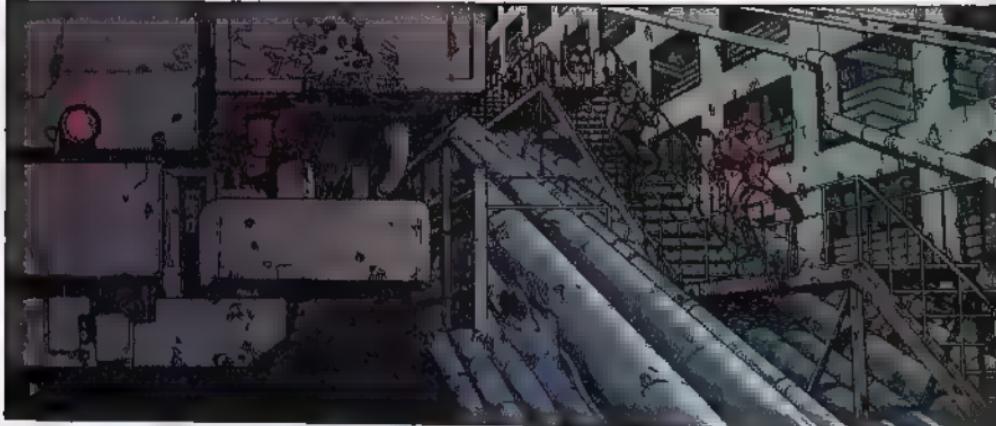
DO YOU REALIZE...



...WHAT'S
INSIDE
ME?









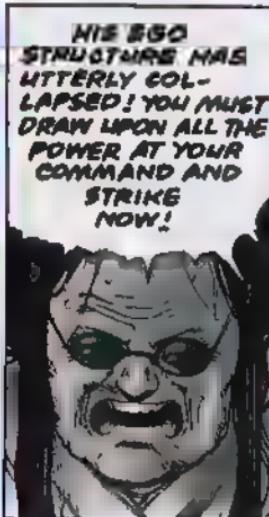


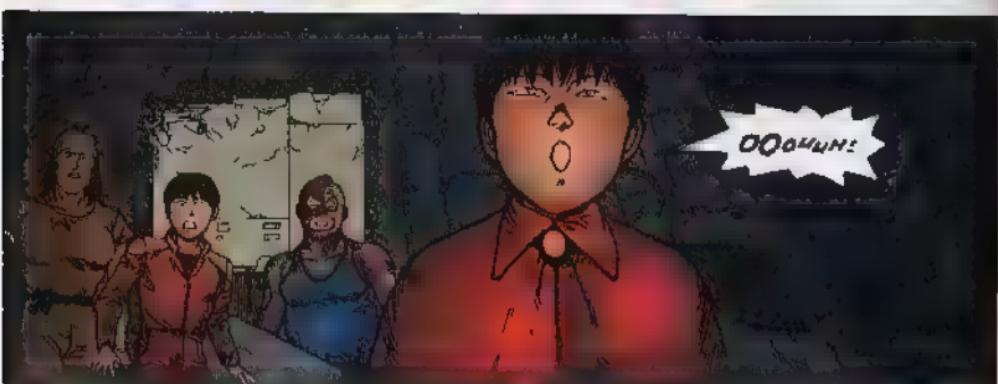
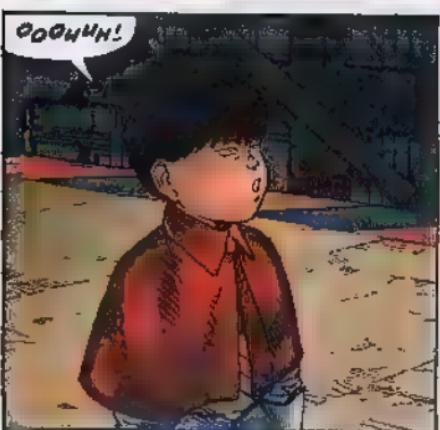










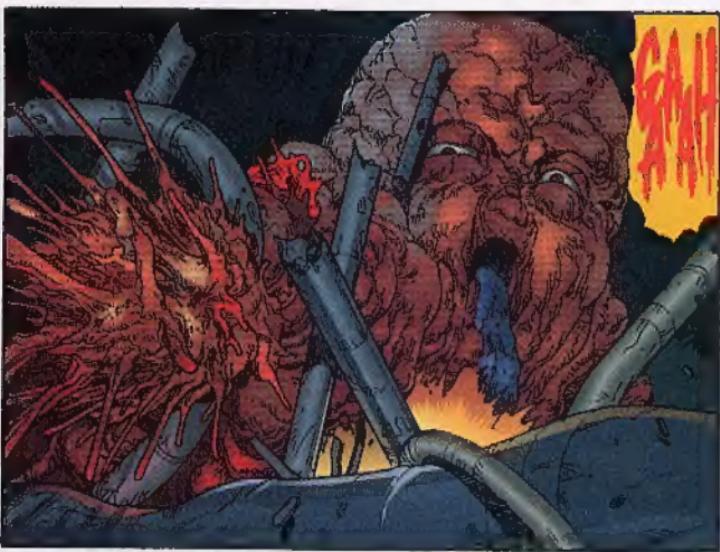






TO GET TO THE
TEMPLE, YOU'LL
HAVE TO GO
THROUGH
ME.







KATSUHIRO OTOMO

writer/illustrator

SATOSHI TAKABATAKE
chief assistant to Mr. Otomo

SATOSHI KON
additional artwork

HIROSHI MIRATA
designer • AKIRA calligraphy

AKIRA SAITO
designer • Kodansha edition

Kodansha, Ltd.

YOKO UMEZAWA
translation

KOICHI YURI
HISATAKA NISHITANI
editor • Kodansha edition

YUKA ANDO
editorial coordinator • Tokyo

NORIYUKI OKAZAKI
managing editor • New York

Epic Comics

JO DUFFY
english script

STEVE OLIFF
with the

OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW
colorists

MICHAEL HIGGINS
with **LAURA BRADY**
letterers

KEVIN SOMERS
assistant editor

MARIE JAVINS
editor

CARL POTTS
executive editor

The wagons have drawn into circles on the rubble strewn plain of Neo-Tokyo, those still surviving forging lines of defense to hold off the furies that rail against them all. Aboard an American warship, fighting men trade ordnance for escape in a desperate attempt to stay alive. Within the weakening ramparts of her temple, Lady Miyako shelters young children holding the secrets of powers older than time. Beneath the city's labyrinthine infrastructure, the berserker named Tetsuo struggles to hold himself together against attacks that tear at his body and soul.

A most terrible siege has set in across this metropolis-turned-battlefield... and the walls have started to crumble.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



DIRECT EDITION

001111>

